

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 9897

BELGRADE FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
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SUBJ: ANDREOTTI VISIT TO ROMANIA

REF: BUCHAREST 4111

SUMMARY. THE ITALIANS ARE PLEASED WITH THE RESULTS OF
PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI'S MAY 25-27 VISIT TO BUCHAREST WHICH
WAS THE FIRST BY AN ITALIAN GOVERNMENT LEADER SINCE WORLD
WAR II. THE ROMANIANS USED THE OCCASION OF THE VISIT TO
SUGGEST THAT THEY HAVE NOT MOVED CLOSER TO THE SOVIETS IN
RECENT MONTHS AND TO STRESS THE NEED FOR A SUCCESSFUL
CONCLUSION OF THE CSCE FOLLOW-UP CONFERENCE. END SUMMARY.
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1. A RESPONSIBLE MFA OFFICIAL HAS SHARED WITH US
HIS ASSESSMENT ON PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI'S MAY 25-27 VISIT
TO BUCHAREST. FROM THE ITALIAN VIEWPOINT, THE VISIT, THE FIRST
BY AN ITALIAN PRIME MINISTER SINCE WORLD WAR II, WAS A MAJOR
SUCCESS ALTHOUGH IT PRODUCED NO IMPORTANT AGREEMENTS.

2. DURING OFFICIAL CONVERSTATIONS, ROMANIAN INTERLOCUTORS SEEMED INTENT ON MAKING THREE POINTS. THEY SOUGHT TO DISPEL WESTERN SPECULATION THAT ROMANIA IN RECENT MONTHS HAS MOVED AWAY FROM ITS INDEPENDENT-MINDED STANCE AND TOWARDS CLOSER RELATIONS WITH THE USSR. SECONDLY, THEY EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THE CALL BY THE LONDON SUMMIT OF LEADERS OF THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES IN OBTAINING THE COOPERATION OF THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES IN SEEKING TO NARROW THE GAP BETWEEN THE WORLD'S RICH AND POOR NATIONS. HOWEVER, THE ROMANIANS NOTED THAT THEY ARE NOT AMONG THE MOST INDUSTRIALIZED OF THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES AND SUGGESTED THAT THEY SHOULD RECEIVE PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT FROM INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES. AT THE SAME TIME, THEY URGED JOINT ITALIAN-ROMANIAN VENTURES FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN THE THIRD WORLD. FINALLY, ROMANIAN LEADERS POINTED OUT THE NEED FOR THE CREATION OF A POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE FOR AND A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THE BELGRADE CSCE REVIEW CONFERENCE.

3. ON CSCE, CEAUSESCU SAID THAT PROGRESS AT BELGRADE IS ESSENTIAL, SINCE FAILURE OF THE CONFERENCE WOULD WEIGH HEAVILY ON THE DETENTE PROCESS. HE SEES BELGRADE AS REPRESENTING A FURTHER STEP IN THE PROCESS OF QUOTE INTERNATIONAL DEMOCRATIZATION END QUOTE. CEAUSESCU ALSO NOTED THAT IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS FAILURE TO MAKE PROGRESS IN EFFORTS TO REDUCE CONVENTIONAL AND NUCLEAR MILITARY THREATS (MBFR AND SALT) RUNS THE GREAT RISK OF REVERSING RECENT POSITIVE TRENDS IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. IN TALKING ABOUT CSCE, CEAUSESCU MENTIONED THE TIES BETWEEN EUROPEAN SECURITY AND SECURITY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND NOTED THE NEED TO DEEPEN ATTENTION TO THIS LATTER ASPECT IN THE CSCE CONTEXT.

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4. ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES, THE MIDDLE EAST WAS MENTIONED IN PASSING WITH NO NEW GROUND COVERED. ON THE SITUATION IN THE BALKANS, CEAUSESCU STRESSED THAT THIS REPRESENTS ANOTHER AREA OF ROMANIAN INTEREST REGARDING ITS NATIONAL SECURITY. HE ASSERTED THAT ROMANIA STANDS WILLING TO WORK MULTILATERALLY TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION IN THE AREA BUT SUGGESTED THAT THIS IS DIFFICULT GIVEN THE ATTITUDES AND POSITIONS OF ONE COUNTRY (READ BULGARIA). ON THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE, CEAUSESCU SAID THAT THERE IS AN INSUFFICIENT EXCHANGE DUE TO THE LIMITED NUMBER OF COUNTRIES INVOLVED. HE SUGGESTED THAT IT BE CONTINUED IN THE FUTURE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

5. FINALLY, OUR SOURCE SAID THAT FOREIGN MINISTER MACOVESCU RETURNED TO BUCHAREST FROM A MOSCOW MEETING OF WARSAW PACT (WP) FOREIGN MINISTERS AND MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER FORLANI. MACOVESCU TOLD FORLANI HE HAD URGED HIS COUNTERPARTS TO RESPOND TO THE LONDON SUMMIT'S CALL FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES IN NARROWING NORTH-SOUTH GAPS. HE ALSO

MENTIONED STRESSING TO HIS WP COLLEAGUES THE INTER-RELATION
BETWEEN EVENTS IN EUROPE, IN THE MEDITERRANEAN, AND IN AFRICA,
POINTING OUT THE DANGERS THAT COULD DEVELOP IF THE PROBLEMS
IN SOUTHERN AFRICA GET OUT OF HAND. GARDNER

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